

PORTLAND, DALLES AND SALT LAKE RAILROAD.

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MEMORIAL

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF OREGON,

PRAYING

*For aid in the construction of the Portland, Dalles and Salt Lake Railroad.*

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JANUARY 6, 1873.—Referred to the Committee on Public Lands, and ordered to be printed.

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*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled:*

We, your memorialists, the senate and house of representatives of the State of Oregon, would represent that the legislative assembly of this State at its present session has granted to the Portland, Dalles and Salt Lake Railroad Company all the resources resulting to this State from the five per cent. of the sales of public lands to which this State may be entitled; also all the lands now or hereafter belonging to this State as swamp and overflowed lands, not otherwise disposed of; and has also granted full right of way to said company over and through all State lands. This was done because of the acknowledged and increasing necessity for the construction of the road that company seeks to build, running as it will through the proper agricultural, mineral, and settled portions of Idaho Territory and eastern Oregon, and affording the only outlet for a region of country eight hundred miles in length.

No trans-continental railroad touches our State or the valuable part of Idaho Territory. Nor can the resources of Oregon be developed, or its settlement be in anywise so readily quickened and accomplished as by an immediate railroad connection with the Eastern States. The Central Pacific road runs far to the south, and the Northern Pacific road is designed to pass entirely to the north, making its terminus on Puget Sound, and neither immediately contributes to the benefit of Oregon or southern Idaho. Two-thirds of our State lies east of the Cascade mountains, and without some channel of communication, such as a railroad, will be very slow of settlement; its fifty-six thousand square miles will lie for many years unsettled by permanent citizens, and many years will pass before the United States can dispose of lands in that vast region to actual settlers in quantities sufficient to warrant the survey of lands, and the establishment and support of land-offices therein. There is not now, and, unless a railroad is built as proposed, can there be any markets where the dwellers of Umatilla, Grand Ronde, John Day, and Powder River valleys, and of the rich lands of southern Idaho, can successfully

or otherwise compete with those of almost all other portions of the United States in the disposition of their productions. The length of that road, the sparseness of settlements along its proposed route, forbid the idea that private enterprise can accomplish the designed end. We desire that our State shall receive its share of the benefits of the great commerce between our whole country and the rich lands of Asia, and that our commercial towns and business centers shall not have all their gains and prosperities transferred to Puget Sound and San Francisco, and a line of sea-coast of near one thousand miles pay unnecessary tribute to those places. We desire an equal chance with our sister States for obtaining, speedily, proper standing in importance and power, so that by our own strength we may add to the national standing and strength.

We would, therefore, request that Congress will make liberal grants of land for the furtherance of the projects of said company, and in doing this we but express the undivided wish of the citizens of our young and vigorous State. We further instruct our Senators and Representatives in Congress to present and urge these claims upon the attention of Congress.

Adopted by the house of representatives October 23, 1872.

RUFUS MALLORY,

*Speaker of the house of representatives.*

Concurred in by the senate, October 23, 1872.

JAMES D. FAY,

*President of the senate.*

STATE OF OREGON,

*Secretary's Office, Salem, November 15, 1872.*

I, S. F. Chadwick, secretary of the State of Oregon, do hereby certify that I am the custodian of the seal of the State of Oregon; that the foregoing copy of house joint memorial No. 9 has been by me compared with the original of said copy, now on file in this office, and said copy is a correct transcript therefrom, and of the whole of said original memorial.

In witness whereof, I have hereto set my hand and the seal of the State of Oregon, the day and year above written.

[SEAL.]

S. F. CHADWICK,

*Secretary of the State of Oregon.*